

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to contrast agents for diagnostic imaging with prolonged blood retention. In particular, this invention relates to  
5 novel compounds that are characterized by an image enhancing moiety (IEM); a protein plasma binding moiety (PPBM); and a blood half-life extending moiety (BHEM). This invention also relates to pharmaceutical compositions comprising these compounds and to methods  
10 of using the compounds and compositions for blood half-life extension and contrast enhancement of diagnostic imaging.